

CLAIMS:

1. A method of mapping the identity of at least one electronic document, the at least one electronic document having a resource locator, the method including the steps of:

- (a) receiving a request for an alias of the resource locator from a client;
- (b) recovering the resource locator from the alias resource locator;
- (c) retrieving the at least one electronic document at the resource locator;
- (d) creating a new alias resource locator; and
- (e) returning the electronic document under the new alias resource locator to the client.

2. A method of categorizing at least one attachment on at least one electronic document, the at least one electronic document having a resource to cater, the method including the steps of:

- (a) receiving a request for an alias of the resource locator from a client;
- (b) recovering the resource locator from the alias resource locator;
- (c) retrieving the at least one electronic document at the resource locator;
- (d) creating a new alias resource locator; and

- (e) returning the electronic document under the new alias resource locator to the client.

3. A method as claimed in any one of claim 1 or claim 2, wherein the at least one electronic document is located on a first server, and the client operates a browser such that upon the at least one electronic document being returned to the client, the browser computes an identifier from the new alias resource locator.

4. A method as claimed in claim 3, wherein the identifier is computed from the new alias resource locator and the content of the at least one electronic document.

5. A method as claimed in claim 4, wherein upon the identifier being computed it is sent to an attachment server on which is located at least one attachment to the at least one electronic document.

6. A method as claimed in claim 5, wherein upon the attachment server receiving the identifier it retrieves the at least one attachment using the identifier.

7. A method as claimed in claim 6, wherein there is the additional step of returning the at least one attachment to the browser.

8. A method as claimed in claim 7, wherein upon the at least one attachment being received by the browser it can be viewed by the client.

9. A method as claimed in claim 1 or any one of claims 3 to 8 when appended to claim 1, wherein the new alias resource locator created in step (d) is created randomly.

10. A method as claimed in claim 1 or any one of claims 3 to 9 when appended to claim 1, wherein random perturbations are introduced into the at least one electronic document prior to returning the at least one electronic document in step (e).

11. A method as claimed in claim 10, wherein the random perturbations are a number of invisible characters.

12. A method as claimed in claim 11, wherein the number is selected arbitrarily.

13. A method as claimed in claim 2 or any one of claims 3 to 8 when appended to claim 2, wherein the new alias resource locator varies according to a network address of the browser.

14. A method as claimed in claim 13, wherein the at least one attachment is grouped by network segments.

15. A method as claimed in claim 2 or any one of claims 3 to 8 when appended to claim 2, wherein the new alias resource locator varies according to client identity.

16. A method as claimed in claim 15, wherein the at least one attachment is grouped by client communities.

17. A method as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 16, wherein the at least one electronic document is a web page.

18. A method as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 17, wherein the resource locator is a URL.

19. A method as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 18, wherein the attachment is an electronic note.

20. A method as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 18, wherein the attachment is an online chat room.

21. A method as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 18, wherein the attachment is an electronic bulletin board.

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